

# P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

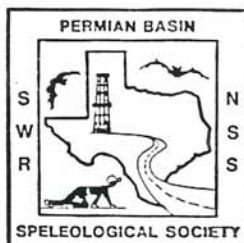
VOLUME 3  
NUMBER 1



NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1985

# P.B.S.S. SPYLUNK

NOVEMBER-DECEMBER 1985



VOLUME 3 NUMBER 1

BILL BENTLEY- PRESIDENT  
TREMONT APTS. #621  
MIDLAND, TX. 79703  
(915) 697-3079

TONY GRIECO- EDITOR  
4723 W. ILLINOIS  
MIDLAND, TX. 79703  
(915) 697-0323

## MEETING

The December meeting of the PBSS will be held THURSDAY, DEC. 12, at the home of Tony and Vicki Grieco, address given above. Note that this is the second Thursday of the month, rather than the third (see below)

## NEWS OF NOTE

### ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGES:

At the October grotto meeting several organizational changes were made. The newly 'elected' grotto officers are:

BILL BENTLEY- PRESIDENT

TONY GRIECO- SECRETARY/ EDITOR

The office of treasurer was incorporated into the secretary/ editor office (I'm a very busy boy!), since we have always had some communication problems between those offices. It was also decided at the October meeting to change our meeting and trip dates from the third to the second Thursday and weekend, respectively. This was done in order to resolve scheduling conflicts we were having with the Permian Basin Outing Club, with whom we share a number of members.

### NEW NSS REGION:

A new NSS region has been formed which incorporates at least part of Texas. It is called the Southern Plains Region, and costs \$ 4.00 per year for membership, which, I believe, includes a newsletter. This should be of great interest to at least a few of our members, i.e. those who live in the more northerly reaches of the PBSS's turf. The PBSS has no plans to join this new region, but individual members are of course free to do so. You can belong to both organizations. For further info contact:

JOE GIDDENS  
P.O. BOX 170274  
ARLINGTON, TX 76003



TEXAS CAVER LIST:

The Texas Speleological Association is attempting to compile a list of all Texas cavers, whether affiliated with an organized group or not. They have asked the PBSS for our membership list, but since it is against our grotto policy to give out this information, any PBSS cavers who want to be on the TSS list will have to contact the TSS themselves. The person to write is:

BILL ELLIOTT  
12102 GRIMSLEY DR.  
AUSTIN, TX. 78759

CARLSBAD CAVERNS RESTORATION FIELD CAMP:

Both Bill Bentley and Tony Grieco have been accepted into the NSS/CRF Carlsbad Caverns Restoration Field Camp, set for June, 1986. I'm not certain if any spaces remain, but if you are interested in more info or in applying, the person to contact is:

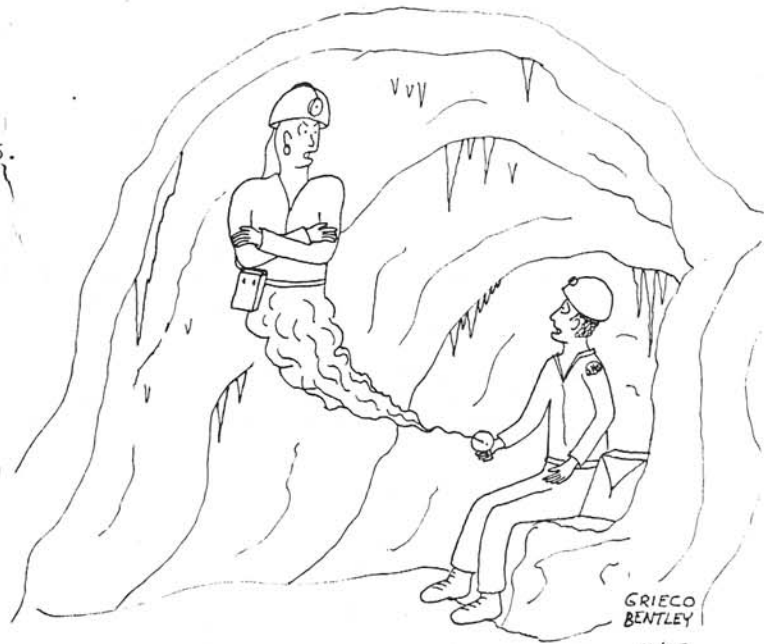
RICH WOLFERT  
5930 BLANCA CT.  
GOLDEN, CO. 80403

If applying send a \$10 check or money order made out to the Cave Research Foundation.

NSS CONVENTION:

Remember, folks, that our grotto has volunteered to guide both pre and post convention trips to Hidden, Black, Cottonwood and Hell Below caves in June 1986. Anyone who can possibly help out in this matter should contact Bill Greenlee, who can give you all of the info that you might need. Call Bill at 523-9550.

Keep an eye on the SPYLUNK for all of the up-to-the-minute news about the rapidly approaching NSS convention!



... AND I SUPPOSE NOW YOU EXPECT THREE WISHES, TOO...

GRIECO  
BENTLEY  
11/85  
PBSS SPYLUNK

WINTER TECHNICAL REGIONAL;

The Southwestern Region Winter Technical Regional is to be held on the weekend of Dec. 7 in Las Cruces. Last I heard, Bill Bentley and Susie Noldan were planning to head that way, so if you need more info call Bill (phone number given above) or Mike Goar (505) 523-6082 (evenings).

T-SHIRTS:

Plans are being made for another run of PBSS T-shirts! Prices will depend on response, but should be in the \$ 8-10 range. Unless someone comes up with a better idea, the design will be the same as before, i.e. the PBSS logo on the front of the shirt. Call Bill Bentley to place your order, ASAP.

CAVE TRIPS

DECEMBER 14-15, 1985: Tentative plans for December are trips into one or more of the caves in Carlsbad Caverns National Park. Helens Cave and Wen Cave have been mentioned. I have also been informed that Dave Belski plans to run a cave surveying class at Crystal Cave that same weekend, so we may decide to go to that instead. Call Bill Bentley for an update if you are interested in either trip.

DECEMBER 21, 1985: Amazing Maze Cave: Although the Permian Basin Outing Club has cancelled its scheduled trip to this cave (which the PBSS was supposed to lead) Bill Bentley still wants to run a trip down that way, if he can find any takers. Call Bill if interested.

TRIP REPORTS

TERLINGUA SINKHOLE, Terlingua, Tx., Oct. 20, 1985.  
Participants: Bill Bentley, Tony Grieco, Terry Hill, Susie Noldan  
(report by Tony)

After a long weekend of hiking and four-wheeling in Big Bend (the planned rafting trip was cancelled due to flooding of the Rio Grande), we decided to stop in Terlingua on the way back to Midland and drop the Terlingua Sinkhole. Although Bill had only been to the cave once several years back, he was able to find the location easily, and we all geared up for the drop.

The sinkhole itself is a blind, vertical hole approximately 130 feet deep. The area in which it occurs is not particularly 'cavey', and this makes the sink even more impressive. The contrast in vegetation between the surface and the bottom of the sink is also interesting, inasmuch as the surface is marked by sparse, desert-type vegetation while the sink is full of lush, broadleaf plants- it was like rappelling into a jungle!

The drop was rigged with a 300 foot rope from two bomb-proof pipe anchors set into the surface rock. Susie entered first (this was the first time she had rappelled using a rack, though you never would have known it watching her) followed by Bill, Tony and then Terry. We all wandered around for 30 minutes or so and then started out. No problems of any kind were encountered during the ascents.

This was Susie's second trip with the PBSS, so she is well on her way to becoming an 'old timer'. Its good to have a new person join the group, especially another confirmed lunatic-er- caver (she hasn't caved with Greenlee yet, though, and she may change her mind about us when she sees what we're like when Wild Bill joins in...).

HICKS (WIND) CAVE, Eddy Co., N.M., Nov.16, 1985.  
Participants: Bill Bentley, Don Edwards, Bill Greenlee, Tony Grieco, Fritzi Heron (report by Tony)

I arrived at the Stevens Motel in Carlsbad at about 6 PM (I was with a field trip group looking at ancient carbonates) and found everyone waiting in my room, ready to go caving. Don and Bill B. had been in Hicks earlier that day to pay a visit to Mud City, but were ready to go again for a deep trip.

Once in the cave, we split up into two groups, with Don, Bill B. and me making our way to the Aragonite Forest while Bill G. was giving Fritzi the nickel tour of Mud City. Fritzi must have enjoyed Mud City, because the two of them ended up staying there for the duration of the trip! Meanwhile, our group found Blood River with no trouble, but never could locate the entrance to the vertizontal leading to the Aragonite Forest- maybe next time.

We exited the cave to a magnificent, starry sky, a perfect end to a good cave trip. This had been one of those trips for all of us that, although it had not been terribly intense, felt particularly good. Don received an Honorary Spylunk certificate for his efforts.

ENDLESS CAVE, Eddy Co., N.M., Nov. 17, 1985.  
Participants: Tony Grieco, Tom Perkins, Mark Swanson, Lorrie Tingle (report by Tony)



This trip was one of two I had arranged for the participants in Occidental Petroleum's Ancient Carbonates Field Trip. I hadn't planned on that day's field tripping being such an ass-buster, and I must compliment Tom, Mark, and Lorrie on their enthusiasm (and endurance). We spent approximately three hours taking the War Club Room tour, and in spite of exhaustion, I think everyone had a good time. This was Lorrie's first trip into a cave -any cave- and she did extremely well. Honorary Spylunk certificates are being issued to this crowd.

ENDLESS CAVE, Eddy Co., N.M., Nov. 18, 1985.

Participants: Chip Fly, Tony Grieco, Tina Ortiz, Art Saller (report by Tony)

Although this group of field trippers had not had the kind of day the above group had had, they were still worn but nonetheless enthusiastic. We took the same tour as the previous day's group had taken, and even though I was tempted, I resisted the urge to make anyone do anything extra difficult or slimey (especially Art, one of the field trip leaders). All in all, a very good trip with a very good group. Kudos and Honorary Spylunk certificates go to all.

CARLSBAD CAVERNS, LEFT HAND TUNNEL, Eddy Co., N.M., Nov. 19, 1985.

Tour in conjunction with Occidental's Ancient Carbonate Field Trip (Report by Tony Grieco)

Mike Queen took us on a whirlwind tour of the geologic sight in both the Main Caverns and the Left Hand Tunnel. Although the reef-related geology was impressive (although it almost seems heretical to look at such things while in a cave...), I found some of the ideas Mike was expounding concerning speleogenesis and popcorn formation to be especially fascinating. An interesting and educational, though quick, excursion.

#### MISCELLANEOUS

##### TIPS FOR CARBIDE CAVERS:

If you have ever had problems cleaning the sooty deposits off of the reflector of your light (especially if you use a plated reflector, which can't stand up to abrasive cleaners), try using Lime-Away or a similar product. Unlike previous methods I've tried, e.g. prolonged soaking in vinegar, the Lime-Away proved to be virtually instantaneous in effect and not nearly as noxious.

##### 1986 SKIPPER ROAST:

About two months ago this editor (then President) sent a letter to Union Carbide, makers of the infamous Skipper flashlights. In this letter I enclosed a copy of a trip report giving a blow-by-blow account of our second annual Skipper Roast, and asked if they might have any donations for the third annual roast, to be held May 3-4, 1986 at Bat Cave. I haven't heard anything from them, but if they have a sense of humor, who knows what we might get!!! Meanwhile, all of you spylunks should be on the lookout for Skippers (or any other kind of cheap, plastic flashlight) to be put to the flames...

EDITORIAL COMMENT:

I'm back, did you miss me?? Special thanks go to 'Wild Bill' Greenlee for editing Volume 2 of this illustrious journal.

Many people have wondered: What happened to the SPYLUNK these last several months? Actually, it isn't a question of what happened to the SPYLUNK as much as it is what happened to the PBSS! The SPYLUNK failed to appear lately simply due to lack of anything to write about - this, in turn, was caused by a simultaneous (though temporary) burnout of all of our hard-core cavers.

Fortunately, after about three months of inactivity, the club seems to have caught its collective breath and is ready to go into its third year as active as ever! Hopefully, this means we can get out a true monthly newsletter, but this depends as much on all of you as it does your poor, tired, overworked, unappreciated, etc. editor. In other words - Go, my children, be fruitful and visit multiple caves. And don't forget to send in the blasted trip report when you've finished...And while you've got your crayons and paper out for that trip report, how about a few covers, and a couple dozen cartoons...Send all of your contributions (monetary or otherwise) to:

Tony Grieco  
4723 W. Illinois  
Midland TX 79703

The PBSS SPYLUNK is the official newsletter of the Permian Basin Speleological Society, a grotto (chapter) of the National Speleological Society. Membership, which includes the newsletter, is \$4.00/yr, paid to the editor (above). Republication by NSS publications is encouraged; others may republish with permission of the editor.